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## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

PROPHYLAXIS OF SCARLET FEVER.—The *Lancet* reports excellent results from painting the throats of patients with carbolized oil, 10 per cent, at three-hour intervals day and night for forty-eight hours, then twice a day for a week. Daily friction of the whole body with eucalyptus oil was used in addition. These measures prevented the spread of the disease.

CEDAR OIL POISONING.—Oil of cedar is one of the drugs relied upon by the laity as an abortifacient. In a report published in the *Medical Record*, it is stated that though in some instances cases had ended fatally where this drug had been taken, in no instance did the woman abort.

MORPHIN-SCOPALAMIN NARCOSIS.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reprints the following from the Pharmacology of Useful Drugs: Effective doses are not very dangerous to the mother in the hands of those who have mastered the difficult technic of its use, but labor is frequently prolonged by its use and the death rate among the new born from asphyxia is certainly higher than with other methods in the hands of the general practitioner.

TREATMENT OF NEPHRITIS.—The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* reports the treatment of a few cases of nephritis with thyroid extract. If given carefully the administration of the drug is safe and should receive more attention than hitherto. A rigorous system of diet may be so strict or long continued, as to be harmful. More freedom in the allowance of protein may be of advantage in individual cases.

REMOVAL OF SILVER STAINS.—A correspondent, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, recommends wetting the stains, either on hands or clothing, with a salt grease, such as bacon fat, followed by soap and water. It is stated that silver stains on towels, etc., can be readily removed by applying a dilute solution of mercuric chloride.

WARM ETHER VAPOR.—A writer in the *Lancet* describes an apparatus by which he administers warm ether vapor. He says there is greater ease in breathing, a free airway, and complete oxygenation, less loss of body heat and so less shock. In very warm weather the ether may be brought to the temperature of the room; in cold weather 85 degrees to 90 degrees Fahrenheit will give good results.

**THE PUPILS.**—Dr. Richard C. Cabot says that the value of the pupils in diagnosis has been greatly overestimated. There are comparatively few conditions in which they yield important diagnostic evidence. Although they are very often abnormal, the abnormalities are seldom characteristic of any single pathologic condition and throw little light on the diagnosis.

**TREATMENT OF RINGWORM.**—A writer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, says a simple and efficacious method of treating ringworm of the scalp or body is to shave the part if necessary, clean it with ether and apply 50 per cent tincture of iodine. The infected area is then frozen with ethylchlorid. One treatment suffices for body ringworm; two or three for ringworm of the scalp.

**TOBACCO SMOKING.**—In a discussion reported in the *Medical Record*, following the reading of a paper by Dr. Abbe, in which many cases of cancer of the mouth and tongue were traced to the excessive use of tobacco, it was stated that cigarettes are not more injurious than other forms of smoking. Possibly they are less injurious as they contain less tobacco than cigars. The danger is in the temptation to a more continuous use and to the practice of inhalation, which was condemned. Ten cigarettes a day was considered an excessive amount.

**RIGOR MORTIS.**—Rigor mortis is defined as the condition of rigidity or contraction, into which the muscles of the body pass after death. It usually begins in the muscles of the eye, neck and jaw, continuing to the chest and upper extremities and lastly those of the abdomen and the lower extremities are affected. It begins from fifteen minutes to six hours after death and continues for about twenty-four hours. It is said to be due to the coagulation of the muscle plasma.

**SHELL SHOCK.**—The *Paris Médical* says that in mental disturbance following explosions of shells 95 per cent of the cases proved rapidly curable. A mild emotional stimulus was of use, such as asking a man to write or dictate a letter to his family.

**THE ASEPTIC OPERATING ROOM.**—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* repeats from a French journal a description of an aseptic operating room. It is to be ventilated exclusively with sterilized air. The spectators stay in an adjoining room with a glass front, a short distance from the operating table. The surgeon's remarks are transmitted by a telephone and megaphone to the auditors. There is a protecting zone around the operating room, in this the sterilizing service is installed. This in turn is protected by an outer zone containing the anesthetic room, and the surgeons' and nurses' toilets. The doors when closed present an absolutely smooth surface continuous with the inner wall.

**THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF HYPOPHOSPHITES.**—A paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* detailing researches into the value of hypophosphites as a medicine, or food, concludes that there is no reliable evidence that they exert a physiologic effect. It has not been demonstrated that they influence any pathologic process; they are not foods. If they are of any use, that use has not been discovered.

**CHANGE OF TITLE.**—The name of the Training School for Nurses at the City Hospital, Blackwell's Island, has been changed by Commissioner Kingsbury to the City Hospital School for Nursing. The three advisory boards of the school have been abolished and a single board formed, composed of representatives of the three.

**IODINE FOR TYPHOID CARRIERS.**—A German authority, quoted in the *Medical Record*, says that iodine in combination with charcoal will free the stools from typhoid bacilli very promptly. From 8 to 15 minims of tincture of iodine is given in a glass of water from three to five times a day, wood charcoal in teaspoonful doses being given at the same intervals. Discharge of bacilli in the urine may continue for a considerable time, but this can be speedily arrested by the administration of hexamethylenamin.

**PEDICULICIDE.**—The same journal gives a prescription for destroying pediculi. Fluid extract of stavesacre two drams, dilute acetic acid six ounces; apply externally three or four times a day until the nits have all been hatched.

**PNEUMONIA.**—In a report of discussions on pneumonia, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, it is stated that to relieve the high temperature, in addition to the usual hydrotherapeutic measures, benefit had been obtained from wrapping the hands and arms to the elbows, and feet and legs to the knees, in wet cloths covered with dry cloths, for twenty minutes three or four times a day. Cold, fresh air is recommended in croupous pneumonia as better than any drug. "It is hard on the nurse, but it is life to the patient." Cotton jackets and poultices are said to be remnants of barbarism.

**GIFT OF HOSPITAL TRAIN.**—The *Medical Record* notes the gift by two Americans to the French Government of a hospital train capable of transporting 225 wounded soldiers. The ceremony of presentation took place at La Chapelle Station, Paris. For the present the train will be in the charge of two surgeons from the American Ambulance, Paris, and will be used to carry wounded soldiers from the front to the south of France.